

IN THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT AT AHMEDABAD**SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION No. 16368 of 2005****For Approval and Signature:****HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE M.R. SHAH**

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- 1 Whether Reporters of Local Papers may be allowed to see the judgment ?
 - 2 To be referred to the Reporter or not ?
 - 3 Whether their Lordships wish to see the fair copy of the judgment ?
 - Whether this case involves a substantial question of law as to the interpretation of the
 - 4 constitution of India, 1950 or any order made thereunder ?
 - 5 Whether it is to be circulated to the civil judge ?

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MANOHAR GURUNATH LONEKAR & 5 - Petitioner(s)
Versus
DEPUTY COLLECTOR, VALSAD & 1 - Respondent(s)

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Appearance :

MR ASHISH M DAGLI for Petitioner(s) : 1 - 6.

MS ARCHANA RAVAL ASST GOVERNMENT PLEADER for Respondent(s) : 1 - 2.

CORAM : HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE M.R. SHAH**Date : 08/12/2005****ORAL JUDGMENT**

1.In this petition under Articles 226 and 227 of the Constitution of India, the petitioners have challenged the legality and validity of the order

passed by the Deputy Collector, Stamp Duty Valuation, Valsad at Annexure-A passed under Section 32(A) of the Bombay Stamp Act by which the petitioner is directed to pay deficit stamp duty of Rs.1,51,027/- plus Rs.250/- by way of penalty in all Rs.1,51,277/- with regard to the document No.2469 executed and presented before the Sub-Registrar, Pardi dated 8.11.1995.

2.Shri A.M.Dagali, learned advocate appearing on behalf of the petitioners has vehemently submitted that the impugned order produced at Annexure-A is contrary to the provisions of Rule-4 of the Bombay Stamp (Determination of Market Value of Property) Rules; 1984 and as such, no particulars and/or reasons are given by the authority for determining the valuation of the property in question at Rs.13,29,874/-. It is also further submitted that as such the impugned order came to be passed on the basis of the notice under Rule-4 of Rules; 1984 by which the petitioner was called upon to prove that the valuation of the property/land in question is at Rs.1,92,000/-. He has relied upon the judgment

of this Court in case of Budhabhai Merabhai Bharwad V. State of Gujarat reported in (2005) 8 GHJ Page-374 : 2005 (2) GLR 1792. The learned advocate for the petitioner has also placed reliance on another decision of the learned Single Judge of this Court rendered in case of PRADHYUMANBHAI MOHANLAL PATEL V. STATE OF GUJARAT & ORS. Reported in 2003 (1) GLR 454, wherein it is held that when the Chief Revenue and Controlling Authority passed an order in cyclostyled form wherein some gaps were filled up and few sentences were added, it is an order passed without proper application of mind and not speaking order and the same cannot be sustained in eye of law. The petitioner has also specifically contended in para-4 of the petition that no such notice has been served upon the petitioner before passing the impugned order and the said fact is not denied by the respondent by way of filing affidavit-in-reply. Under the Circumstances also, the impugned order is in breach of principles of natural justice which requires to be quashed and set aside.

3. Ms. Archana Raval, learned AGP appearing on behalf

of the respondents is not in a position to dispute that in the impugned order at Annexure-A, as such, no particulars are given that on what basis the Deputy Collector has come to the conclusion that the valuation of the property in question is at Rs.13,29,874/-. She is also not in a position to dispute that as such the controversy in question is directly covered by the judgment of this Court in case of ***Budhabhai Merabhai Bharwad and another decision PRADHYUMANBHAI MOHANLAL PATEL V. STATE OF GUJARAT & ORS.***(supra). However, he has submitted that the valuation of the property in question is fixed on the basis of the Jantri.

4.Heard the learned advocates appearing on behalf of the parties.

5.I have gone through the order passed by the Deputy Collector. In the impugned order, no particulars and/or basis have been mentioned by the Deputy Collector that on what basis, he has come to the conclusion that the valuation of the property in question is at Rs.13,29,874/-. Nothing is on record

to suggest that the petitioner has been served with any material relied upon by the Deputy Collector, if any, for ascertaining and/or fixing the valuation of the property in question at Rs.13,29,874/- It also prima-facie appears that even the impugned order has been passed on the basis of the notice issued under Rule-4 of the aforesaid Rules and by which the petitioner was called upon to prove that the valuation of the property is at Rs.1,92,000/- and no more. This Court has remanded the matter to the Deputy Collector for deciding the same afresh after issuing proper notice under Rule-4 of Rules 1984 and after giving an opportunity to the petitioner and after providing the material upon which the Deputy Collector wants to rely to determine the valuation of the property in question.

6.For the reasons stated above and for the reasons stated in the judgment of this Court in case of BHUDHABHAI MERABHAI BHARWAD and another decision PRADHYUMANBHAI MOHANLAL PATEL V. STATE OF GUJARAT & ORS.(supra), the petition is allowed partly. The

impugned order passed by the Deputy Collector, Stamp Duty Valuation, Valsad is hereby quashed and set aside and the matter is remanded to the Deputy Collector, Stamp Duty Valuation, Valsad for deciding the same afresh in accordance with law and on merits and after issuing proper notice under Rule-4 of the Rules of 1984 and after giving an opportunity to the petitioner and after supplying necessary material to the petitioner upon which the Deputy Collector proposes to rely while determining and/or ascertaining the valuation of the land in question. The said exercise to be done within a period of 6 months from today. It is, however, made clear that if any amount is already paid/deposited by the petitioner pursuant to the order passed by the Deputy Collector, Stamp Duty Valuation, Valsad (Annexure-A) then in that case, the respondents are not required to refund the said amount at this stage and the same would be subject to the ultimate outcome of the proceedings on remand and the said amount be adjusted on the basis of the order that may be passed by the Deputy Collector.

7.Rule is made absolute to the aforesaid extent,
however, there will be no order as to costs.

Direct Service is permitted.

(M.R.SHAH, J.)

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